



## **State of Maryland**

# **Violence Against Women Act STOP Formula Grant**

(Services\_\_Training\_\_Officers\_\_Prosecutors)

## **State Implementation Plan**

### **Federal Fiscal Years 2014-2016**

**March 2014**

**Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention**

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## **I. Introduction**

### ***Administrative Agency***

In 1995, Maryland's Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) was established through Executive Order 01.01.1995.18 which merged the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission and the Governor's Office of Justice Administration.

GOCCP has served as the administrative agency for the STOP Violence Against Women Grant Act Program (VAWA) since this time. Historically, GOCCP has assisted in the development of legislation, policies, and programs. In 2005, Executive Order 01.01.2005.36 empowered GOCCP to develop collaborative and deliberative approaches to impact crime through more effective management of Maryland's criminal justice resources. GOCCP redirected its focus to the development and support of programs related to reducing and preventing future victims of crime, violence, delinquency and substance abuse, as well as improving the administration of justice and other public safety issues. In 2007, Executive Order 01.01.2007.04 placed Maryland's Statistical Analysis Center within GOCCP to facilitate statewide crime data analysis and sharing to generate effective local policies and solutions.

As of October 1, 2010, GOCCP took over the administration of the federal Victims of Crime Act funds (VOCA) from Maryland's Department of Human Resources (DHR). In 2011, GOCCP took over the administration of the federal funded Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). GOCCP is especially aware of the importance of VOCA funding for traditionally underserved victims, including victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. GOCCP's administration of VOCA and VAWA funds furthers GOCCP's commitment to these populations.

GOCCP is a repository of resources for victim service providers in Maryland. These resources are designed to improve public safety. GOCCP provides access to federal and state grant funds and assistance to town, city, county, and non-profit agencies to plan projects, coordinate stakeholders, develop accountability measures, and get improved results from investments and efforts. They connect member agencies to best practices and innovations in national and state programming. GOCCP is the leader in the implementation of programs that serve victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence.

GOCCP consists of fifty-eight staff members with expertise in the development, management and administration of over \$130 million in federal and state criminal justice, juvenile justice, and victim services grant programs. As outlined in Attachment A, GOCCP is organized similarly to the federal system—a regional model—with the primary goals of improved customer service to sub-recipients, and enhanced monitoring of funded programs. In addition to grant monitoring per region, there continues to be one VAWA point of contact for OVW, the STOP VAWA Program Manager, who also serves as GOCCP's VAWA expert and "go-to" person for all internal regional monitors.

### **Mission Statement**

GOCCP is Maryland's one STOP shop for resources to improve public safety. GOCCP exists to educate, connect, and empower Maryland's citizens and public safety entities through innovative funding, strategic planning, crime data analysis, best practices research, and results-oriented customer service.

### **Vision**

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) is synchronized to meet Maryland's public safety challenges with the highest levels of performance and customer service in grants administration, technical assistance, best practices research, crime data analysis, and statewide distribution of public safety research, statistics, and publications. GOCCP is dedicated to improving

public safety – everywhere in Maryland – and is an absolute must if we are to realize the full potential of our State's promise.

GOCCP values evidence-based policies and practices that institute collaboration and provide resources to achieve significant impact on crime. While the funding priorities of GOCCP are currently service improvement via technology, adult, and juvenile violent crime, and community-oriented programs, the agency's constant priority is ensuring that GOCCP's success is measured by grantee success.

### ***The State's Task***

GOCCP administers the STOP VAWA grant program statewide. GOCCP received notification of its FY 2014 VAWA award in September 2014. In anticipation of receipt of these funds and in accordance with the Violence Against Women Act federal guidelines, GOCCP held several conference calls and a joint meeting to identify short and long term priorities and strategic planning that would guide the equitable distribution of VAWA funding.

The State of Maryland approved this three-year implementation plan on March 04, 2014. The priorities established for Maryland and the process used to strategize those priorities, identify those who contributed to the process, as well as communicate the direction of implementation. Utilizing the STOP Formula Program Implementation Plan Checklist as the infrastructure, this plan will concisely outline the following:

- The Planning Process,
- An Outline of Maryland's Victim and Sub-recipient Needs as identified by the STOP Strategic Planning Team, and
- 2014 VAWA Program Priorities and Approaches, including: its relationship to prior implementation plans, the grant making strategy, the required distribution of sexual assault set-aside funding, short and long-term goals and objectives, how Maryland addressed the needs of underserved victims, the State's goals in monitoring and evaluating sub-recipients, and any encountered barriers to implementation.

## **II. Description of Planning Process**

### ***Planning Team Composition***

GOCCP has forged strong relationships with VAWA applicants and sub-recipients through its customer-oriented management and structure. To this end, the Planning Team consisted of major stakeholders and leaders in the fields of sexual assault and domestic violence. This group included leaders from statewide domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, members of law enforcement, prosecution, private non-profit service providers, representatives of the courts (specifically, in the area of Protective Orders) advocates, and managers from other funding sources. When developing the invitation list, GOCCP focused on expansion and the inclusion and representation from non-profit, non-governmental providers from across the State. Following the newly outlined protocol, GOCCP invited all current VOCA, FVPS, and Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) sub-recipients to strengthen collaboration while addressing the needs of the victims. This further diversified the Planning Team and brought in several new representatives from non-profit, nongovernmental victim service providers. These changes proved successful. See Attachment B for a complete list of the organizations represented in the planning process. Highlighted on this list are the nonprofit, nongovernmental agencies.

### ***Planning Process:***

The 2014 STOP VAWA planning process was similar in many ways to previous years. The focus continues to foster partnerships with other funding sources to increase information sharing across program lines and to make stakeholders aware of innovative strategies to leverage resources and meet the victims' needs.

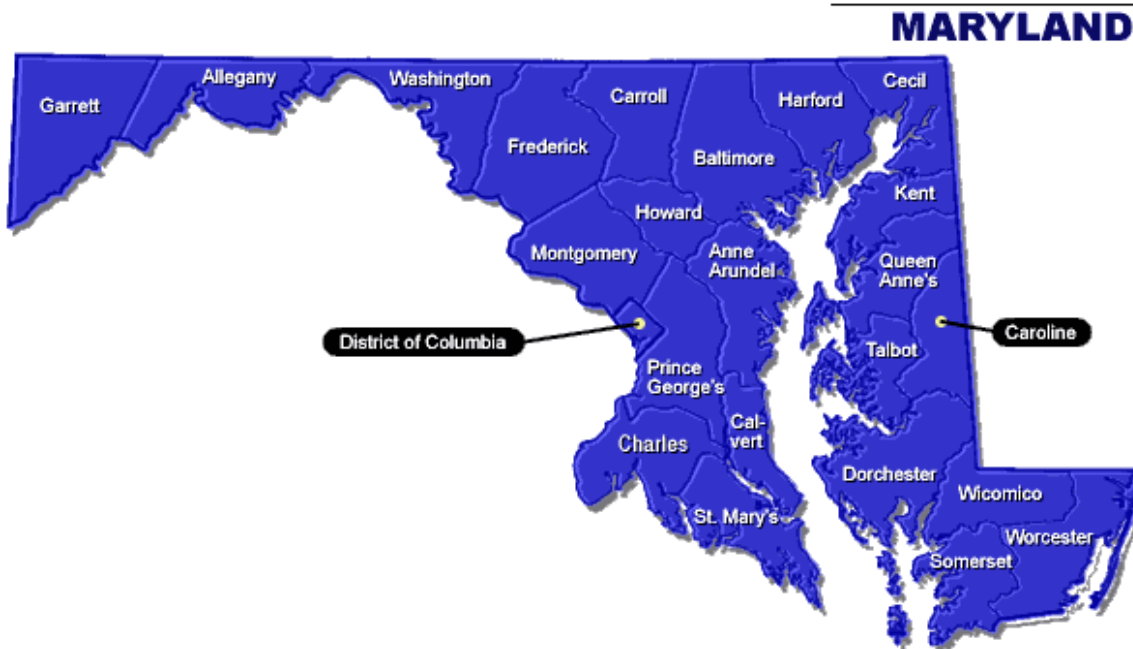
GOCCP administers the state and federal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault grant programs. The consolidation of victims of crime programming within one agency not only brought Maryland in line with a number of other states that administer victim services programs, but also simplified operational and fiscal functions associated with the management of victim service programs. GOCCP's objective in accepting transfer of these programs was to create a streamlined and efficient funding process that is consistent with the desires of the stakeholders. To this end, GOCCP works with the FVPSA Program Manager and FVPSA stakeholders to develop accountability measures, plan projects, and connect agencies with best practices and innovative programs as well as the Victims of Crime Act funds (VOCA) Program Manager and VOCA stakeholders. By participating in the annual VAWA Program re-evaluation of statewide strategic priorities for unserved and underserved victims of domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault and stalking, as a result FVPSA stakeholders are able to reassess priorities for domestic violence program funding.

The STOP VAWA Strategic Planning Session, which was held in January 2014, included representation from the statewide coalitions for sexual assault, domestic violence coalition, dual coalitions, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim service providers, and culturally specific and underserved providers. Maryland's previous three year Implementation Plan was reviewed in detail, by STOP category, based on current jurisdictional needs, and the current response to violence against women. The session addressed successes, best practices, gaps in services, and barriers. The planning team identified strategies to overcome barriers and assigned short term (year 1) and long term (years 2 & 3) goals as well as objectives.

The information assembled from the strategic planning session was used to prepare the 2014 STOP VAWA Notice of Funding Availability, which will be published in March for applicants to apply for funding.

Additionally, the finalized goals and objectives outlined in this Implementation Plan were a direct result of various communications, meetings, and sound fundamental quarterly and annual grant monitoring throughout the award period. GOCCP also has regular access to victim service providers and other domestic violence and sexual assault stakeholders through several Boards and Commissions housed within including the Governor's Council on Family Violence (FVC) and the Maryland State Board of Victim Services.

### III. Needs and Context



There are twenty-four jurisdictions in Maryland, including twenty-three counties and Baltimore City. Eighteen of Maryland's twenty-four jurisdictions qualify as rural, making up seventy-five percent of Maryland's total geography. According to the 2012 Uniform Crime Report (UCR), the areas suffering from the most incidences of domestic violence by population include the metro regions of Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Rural counties with high domestic violence incidents include Allegany Western Region, St. Mary's in the Southern Maryland, and Caroline, Dorchester, Worcester, and Wicomico County on the Eastern Shore.

The 2010 U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Maryland has a population of 5,773,552, an increase of 9% since 2000. The following is the demographic profile from the 2010: Maryland's diverse population includes approximately twenty-nine percent Black or African American residents, six percent Hispanic or Latino residents, and five percent Asian residents. Approximately fifteen percent of Maryland's residents between the ages of five and sixty-four have a disability, while thirty-eight percent of individuals sixty-five and over report being disabled.

Sixty-seven percent of Maryland residents own a home. Thirty percent of all households report having children. The median household income in Maryland as of 2010 is \$72,999; nine percent of all individuals are living in poverty. Furthermore, fifty-two percent of the population is female. Women who are considered the head of the household manage Fourteen percent of Maryland's households.

- The median age was 38.
- The average household size was 2.61 people per household.
- Among the state's occupied housing units, 67.5 percent were owned, compared with 32.5 percent that were rented.

In 2012, Maryland documented 17,615 domestic violence related crimes reported by law enforcement agencies, as stated in the 2012 UCR. It is important to note that UCR statistics only include incidents in which domestic violence was identified as the cause and a police report was written. The Department of Justice estimates that

approximately 25% of domestic violence assaults are actually reported to the police. The FY 13 Maryland Network Against Violence Report shows 16,748 temporary and 9,178 final protective orders were granted statewide in civil court.

During 2012, according to UCR statistics, 1,236 forcible rapes were reported in Maryland. As always, the issue of underreporting remains. Reported rapes in Baltimore City, which leads the nation in the proportion of rape reports classified as unfounded, had been on the decline for years, dropping at a much faster rate than the national average and fueling skepticism among critics and victim advocates. A 2010 investigation and audit of Baltimore City's policies and procedures for handling sex offense investigation identified major issues and led to comprehensive changes that Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said "has forever changed and improved the way sexual assault cases are investigated in Baltimore, ensuring that all victims of sexual assault have their complaints investigated fully and are treated with dignity and respect." The Sexual Assault Response Team, which includes police, prosecutors, and victim advocates, reviewed 98 rape investigations classified as unfounded between January 2009 and August 2010. It found that 52 should be considered rapes or other sex crimes. Policies instituted as a result of these investigations make certain that all sexual assault reports are referred to a specialized unit and cannot be dismissed on the scene. In 2009, there were 158 forcible rapes reported and in 2010, there were 237 forcible rapes reported and 28 that were reclassified from the audit totaling 265. With the changes in effect, rape reports were up 68% compared with the same time in 2009, according to police figures, which include the cases the review team said, should be reclassified.

Over the last seven years, Maryland has decreased domestic violence-related homicides by 15.3%. This was accomplished by passing legislation which expanded services, protected victims' rights, gave law enforcement more and better resources and training, and required judges to take guns out of the hands of abusers. As a goal, Maryland continues to reduce domestic violence-related homicide by forging and improving strong partnerships and collaborations among law enforcement officers, other community practitioners, and advocates. For example, the continued use of the Lethality Assessment Program-Maryland Model (LAP), which was created by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) in 2005, is an innovative prevention strategy to reduce domestic violence homicides and serious injuries. The LAP is a multi-pronged intervention program that consists of a research-based lethality-screening tool, an accompanying referral protocol that provides direction for the screener based on the results of the screening process, and follow-up contact and other best practices and protocols. This best practice includes follow-up telephone and in-person visits to victims, provides support and encouragement to use program services, and the screening of victims in court prior to or following temporary protective order hearings.

Maryland's 2013 State Legislative Session was monumental for domestic violence victims. With the backing of Maryland's Governor and his Family Violence Council, the following domestic violence administration bills passed and became effective October 1, 2013:

- **SB 1001 – Family Law – Protective Orders – Notification of Service – Sunset Extension** - supported with written testimony (no cross file).

Extending the termination date of certain provisions of law that provide for notice of the service on a respondent of certain protective orders; and generally relating to notification of the service of a protective order.

Additionally, during Maryland's 2014 State Legislative Session, the Family Violence Council, and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence supported the following legislation:

- **SB 41/HB 775: Domestic Violence – Persons Eligible for Relief:** People who have engaged in sexual relations – either consensual or non-consensual- and who have experienced abuse will not be limited to the relief in the peace order statute, but will be eligible for the relief available in the protective order statute.
- **SB 333 AND SB 28/ HB 307 and HB 333: Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Burden of Proof:** A final protective order could be obtained by proving abuse by preponderance of the evidence instead of the current heavy burden of clear and convincing evidence. The preponderance of the evidence standard is used for the majority of family law cases.
- **SB 334: Family Law – Domestic Violence – Permanent Protective Orders:** Those dealing with extreme domestic violence could obtain a final permanent protective order in cases where the respondent has been convicted of second degree assault, the majority of domestically related crimes, not just the crimes currently listed in our Code, and is sentenced to five years of imprisonment for the crime, not after serving five years for the crime.
- **SB 337/HB 306: Criminal Law – Crimes Committed in the Presence of a Minor- Penalties:** Criminal defendants who are convicted of domestically related crimes in the presence of children would be eligible for an enhanced penalty.
- **SB 434/HB 647: Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Extension:** This legislation responds to a recent Court of Appeals decision, *LaValle v. LaValle*. The legislation would clarify that during the term of a peace or protective order, when the petitioner files for an extension, the peace or protective order will remain in effect until the court has held a hearing on the extension of the peace or protective order.
- **HB 185: Crimes – Committing a Crime of Violence in the Presence of a Minor:** Criminal defendants who are convicted of committing a crime of violence in a resident in the presence of a minor at least 2 years of age would be eligible for an enhanced penalty.
- **HB 352: Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Penalties – Second or Subsequent Offenses:** Criminal Defendants who violate a peace or protective order when the defendant has been previously convicted of a peace or protective order would be eligible for an enhanced penalty.

*Other important domestic violence legislation in Maryland:*

2012

- **SB 291/HB 769 – Unemployment Insurance - Coverage - Victims of Domestic Violence:** Prohibiting the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation from charging specified unemployment insurance benefits against the earned rating record of an employing unit; authorizing the Secretary to find that a cause of voluntarily leaving employment is good cause if it is directly attributable to the individual or individual's immediate family member being a victim of domestic violence and the individual provides specified information; providing that specified information provided to the Secretary is confidential; etc.
- **HB 8/SB 175 – Crimes – Electronic Communication – Harassment:** Changing the prohibition against using electronic mail with the intent to harass to prohibit engaging in electronic communication with the intent to harass; changing the defined term "electronic mail" to "electronic communication" and altering the definition; and establishing penalties for a second or subsequent violation of the Act.



- **HB 1146/SB 647 - Domestically Related Crimes – Reporting:** Requiring the court, on request of the State's Attorney, to determine whether a crime for which a defendant is convicted or receives a probation before judgment disposition is a domestically related crime; requiring the State to bear the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the crime is a domestically related crime; requiring a finding by the court that a crime is a domestically related crime to become part of the court record for specified purposes; etc.
- **HB 1160 Family Law - Temporary Peace and Protective Orders – Duration:** Extending the duration of a temporary peace order or a temporary protective order under specified circumstances.
- **HB 1235 – Public Safety - Emergency Number System - Next Generation 9-1-1:** This legislation will establish planning guidelines for the creation and deployment of next generation 9-1-1 system and service. This will now enable 9-1-1 responders to do their jobs more safely and efficiently by modernizing Maryland's 9-1-1 infrastructures and upgrading from a legacy system to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911); this is similar to upgrading from a dial-up modem to a broadband connection. This change will allow text messages, picture messages, video and any other type of data to be sent directly to 9-1-1 dispatchers, allowing instant communication between first responders, dispatchers, and the person or persons contacting 9-1-1. Not only will this improve outcomes for victims by maintaining important caller data (such as caller ID and caller location), but it will also help to provide faster, more efficient transfers when call volume exceeds capacity. Allowing victims the ability to text 9-1-1 directly and send a video to 9-1-1 if necessary, rather than call by phone, will help to keep victims safe if they are unable to talk or are afraid their abuser will hear them and thus cause more harm. The ability to send a video of the abuse may be especially important because this documentation may be necessary should the abuser be held accountable for his actions.

## 2011

- **HB 647/SB 317 - Homeowners Insurance – Victims of Crimes of Violence – Discrimination Prohibited:** As amended, this bill would prohibit insurers from using information about an individual's status as a victim of a crime of violence to take certain actions relating to a homeowner's insurance policy or denying payment to an innocent co-insured person.
- **HB 1047 – Rental Housing - Tenant Victim of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault - Lease Payment Obligation:** Limiting the liability under a residential lease if a tenant victim of domestic violence or sexual assault terminates the lease and vacates the premises; and authorizing the tenant victim to terminate future liability under the lease except for a specified period of time after providing notice of an intent to vacate.

## **IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches**

### ***A. Relation to Prior Implementation Plans***

As underscored in prior implementation plans, Maryland's fiscal year 2014 state plan will reiterate its commitment to creating an on-going planning group that encompasses a broad diversity of participants representing every segment of the coordinated community response to domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, stalking, and teen dating violence. This group utilized an inclusive planning process that established goals, current status, identified needs and gaps, identified the need to evaluate programs and practices to better categorize funding priorities, and developed measures that will ultimately enhance the response to victims statewide in accordance with the STOP VAWA federal priorities and purpose areas.

Previous year's efforts and plans were evaluated in detail and the Planning Team did not identify any major shifts in direction.

### ***B. Priority Areas***

Maryland was awarded 2.6 million in STOP formula funds for fiscal year 2014. Ten percent (10%) of the total award, or \$260,690 is allowable for administrative expenses associated with administering the STOP program. To view sub-grant allocations see Attachment C. The allotments within each category are as follows.

Law Enforcement:	\$586,553
Prosecution:	\$586,553
Victim Services:	\$703,863
Discretionary:	\$351,931
Courts:	\$117,310
Administrative:	\$260,690
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,606,903</b>

Utilizing the twenty program purpose areas defined within the STOP Program as a baseline, the following priorities were developed by the VAWA Strategic Planning team.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### ***Priorities***

- **Specialized training/retraining in Domestic Violence (DV), Sexual Assault (SA), Stalking, and Dating Violence**
- **Identify the predominant aggressor and decrease dual arrest**
- **Strengthen and expand the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams (DVFRTs)**
- **Enhance and expand the prioritization of warrants with LAP data collection information technology**
- **Mandatory training on certification for the U Visa**
- **Mandatory coordination with the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA), the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) or other approved agencies for trainings**
- **DV & SA Specialized Units or positions (Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants, Bilingual Officers, SA Crime Investigators, and DV Coordinators/Investigators)**
- **Trauma Informed Response (including services, policies and training)**

### ***Program Purpose Areas***

- Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence, including the use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (U) and (T) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a));
- Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
- Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by State funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence; OMB Number: 1122-0020 Expiration Date: 8/31/2015

- Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault;
- Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying, classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
- Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as “Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants”) in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders. Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants shall have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and may undertake the following activities—
  - (A) developing, in collaboration with prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including the use of evidence-based indicators to assess the risk of domestic and dating violence homicide and prioritize dangerous or potentially lethal cases;
  - (B) notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency;
  - (C) referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance services); and
  - (D) taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses to male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code.

The VAWA Strategic Planning Team strongly supports law enforcement programs that emphasize increased and/or enhanced coordination with victim advocates and victim service providers as well as those that equally address sexual assault and domestic violence. The team reiterated its ongoing support for specialized training to address the transition in personnel and in the areas of protective orders. The team identified a trend of social media/internet domestic violence crimes such as stalking and harassment. In addition, the team supports a statewide replica of Baltimore City's model to prioritize serving warrants to highly dangerous abusers/perpetrators.

Best Practices and successful projects identified included the Lethality Assessment Program, which has received national and local recognition, coordination of local Fatality Review teams, specialized staffing (notably, responsible/dedicated person(s) held accountable), law enforcement and victim service provider collaboration/coordination on assessments (i.e. victim advocates accompanying law enforcement on initial and follow-up meetings, victim/witness liaison), and training on new laws.

The above-stated best practices and priorities led to the following goals and objectives identified within the law enforcement category:

- Continue final phase of rolling out Lethality Assessment in each jurisdiction (Year 1)
- Continue, by county, intensive training regarding Lethality Assessment Implementation (Year 1-3)
- Provide intensive training to Law Enforcement statewide regarding laws and policies (Year 1-3)
- Develop a SART for each jurisdiction (Year 1-3)

- Support ongoing specialized Sexual Assault trainers (Year 1)
- Development of new policies, MOUs, and partnerships between law enforcement agencies and victim service providers to coordinate victim services (Year 1-3)
- On-going comprehensive domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking training to law enforcement statewide (Year 1-3)
- Extend LAP comprehensive training beyond Law Enforcement (Years 1-3)
- Ability to use information on language access programs; this would be an ongoing goal to be completed (Years 1-3)
- Statewide expansion of specialized SA trainers statewide (Years 2-3)
- Lethality Assessment implemented across the state (all jurisdictions fully implemented) (Years 2-3)
- New and expanded specialized DV & SA staffing/units within all major jurisdictions/agencies (Years 1-3)
- Implementation of coordinated policies/partnerships between law enforcement agencies and victim service providers to coordinate victim services (Years 2-3)

## **PROSECUTION**

### ***Priorities***

- **Mandatory training on certification for the U Visa**
- **Specialized and expanded culturally competent & bilingual staffing**
- **Specialized and expanded culturally competent services**
- **Participation in SART**
- **Training in domestic violence, sexual assault, strangulation and stalking and prosecutorial best practices**
- **Trauma Informed Response (including services, policies and training)**

### ***Program Purpose Areas***

- Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence, including the use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (U) and (T) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a));
- Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
- Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by State funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence; OMB Number: 1122-0020 Expiration Date: 8/31/2015
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals;
- Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims;
- Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.

- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses to male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code.

The team confirmed their support of the State's Attorneys' programs that equally address domestic violence and sexual assault, specialized staffing to include DV & SA Units, Domestic Violence Expert Witnesses, Interpreters, Victim Witness Assistants, Dedicated DV & SA Prosecutors, Vertical Prosecution Staff, Victim/Witness Paralegals, and Bilingual Advocates. They identified mandatory training for prosecutors on certification for the U Visa and specialized/expanded service to include, but not be limited to, investigators to complete immediate follow-up and provide enhanced services (i.e., personal service of court summons) to underserved victims including victims with special needs, disabilities, non-English speaking, etc. The team placed emphasis on increased prosecution of strangulation and stalking cases. Additionally, the team identified training for domestically related crimes from organizations such as the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association and/or the National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women (NCPVAW). The NCPVAW exists to serve prosecutors, members of the prosecution team and other allied professionals as they strive to deliver justice to all survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking and to hold criminals accountable. Finally, stakeholders identified continuous training for judges, court commissioners, prosecutors, and law enforcement on topics including: Strangulation Indicators, Understanding/Networking with Victim Witness Assistants, Cross Training, Lethality Assessments, Interaction/Communication with Victims (i.e., status of case, progress of case), Partnerships with State's Attorneys and Prosecutors, Case Management, Policies & Protocols, Victim Referrals to Follow-up Services, Jane Doe Reporting, and Cultural Sensitivity.

Best Practices and successful projects identified included specialized DV & SA units, legal support staff to complete initial investigations and follow-up services, danger assessment advocates, specialized DV Dockets, and personal service of court summons (investigators to assist). The above-stated best practices and priorities led to the following goals and objectives identified within the prosecution category:

- Maintain and enhance existing dedicated DV & SA Units to include investigators and other support staff (Year 1-3)
- Create dedicated DV & SA positions in jurisdictions without existing positions (Year 1)
- Continue the establishment of SART teams in each jurisdiction (Year 1-2)
- Maintain and support Strangulation, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking training for appropriate parties (prosecutors, judges, police, etc.) with emphasis on Lethality Assessments, Cultural Sensitivity, Cross Training, Case Management, and Referrals (Years 1-3)
- Support DV & SA Units and/or personnel in each major jurisdiction (Years 2-3)
- Continue and expand training on Strangulation, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking for appropriate parties (prosecutors, judges, police, EMT, Emergency Room personnel, Court Commissioner, etc.) with emphasis on Lethality Assessments, Cultural Sensitivity, Cross Training, Case Management, and Referrals (Years 2-3)

## **VICTIM SERVICES**

### ***Priorities***

- **Maintain domestic violence & sexual assault core services**
- **Enhance culturally sensitive services to include all populations regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, and/or religion (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ), Limited English Proficiency, Multi-ethnic, Latino/Hispanic, Black, Immigrant/Refugee)**
- **Hospital-Based services that ensure immediate crisis services to Victims (including referral to community based-programs, SAFE and SANE programs)**

- **Provide long-term support for victims (including housing, transportation and transitional support)**
- **Ensure victims confidentiality**
- **Provide civil legal representation**
- **Provide Trauma Informed Response (including services, policies and training)**
- **Developing and promoting state, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking**
- **Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault**
- **Developing and strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims.**

### ***Program Purpose Areas***

- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
- Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters; and
- Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families;
- Developing, enlarging or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional or detention settings.
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses to male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code.

The Strategic Planning Team acknowledged that due to the economic downturn the Victim Service Category has seen an increase in services needed. Historically, requests for this category far exceed the category allotment. Discussions centered on creative ideas that would have the most impact with the least disruption to victims. The team strongly supported programs that center around core services, enhanced and culturally sensitive services to include: transitional housing, transportation, legal representation, services to underserved populations, such as non-English speaking, and to provide culturally competent and bi-lingual victim service staff, such as Victim Advocates, Counselors and/or Hotline Coordinators.

In February 2010, the Governor's Family Violence Council finalized a report regarding the merits of hospital-based domestic violence programs. This report assessed Maryland's current efforts, provided a review of subject literature, a comparison of similar programs across the county, and an assessment of program measures including the impact of violence on healthcare costs and a summary of program funding. To date, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention supports the state's nine hospital-based programs. The team acknowledges the importance and supports the expansion of the hospital-based programs and the immediate crisis services to victims. To this end, GOCCP has collaborated with the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence to ensure successful and comprehensive programs.

Best Practices and successful projects identified included MOUs and/or partnerships between victim service providers and law enforcement, a traveling bilingual immigration attorney project, multi-pronged victim services,

and increased coordination between victim service providers and law enforcement, prosecution, and court entities. The above-stated best practices and priorities led to the following goals and objectives identified within the victim services category:

- Provide required and specialized services to all victims including culturally linguistic, trauma-informed services, and culturally specific to include the following: (Years 1-3)
  - Receipt and response to hotline calls on a 24-hour basis;
  - Short-term safe accommodation for the victim and any minor children;
  - Crisis counseling for the victim, family members or friends to alleviate the immediate crisis;
  - Information and referral services as needed to community resources;
  - Continuing counseling;
  - Legal services for both Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (i.e. Protective Order Representation and other civil legal representation);
  - Accompaniment for legal or medical/hospital services;
  - Assistance and support for the victim in using mental health, social, and medical resources
  - Supportive services to help meet the need for housing, employment, education, parenting skills, childcare, health care, and transportation.
  - Provide education and training to the community to include outreach activities designed to reach unserved and underserved victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Increase domestic violence and sexual assault advocates and other specialized personnel to adequately respond to the rising number of referrals anticipated from increased use of Lethality Assessment Protocol statewide (Year 1)
- Create stronger partnerships and/or develop MOUs with collaborating agencies (Year 1-3)
- Promote and maintain hospital-based services to victims including hospital-based victim advocacy and clinical forensic programs for sexual assault (SAFE) and domestic violence (Years 1-3)
- Enhance and maintain required and specialized services to victims which are culturally linguistic and culturally specific (Years 1-3)
- Maintain partnerships between victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecution, etc. (Years 2-3)

## **COURTS**

### ***Priorities***

- **Specialized staffing – bilingual and/or multi-lingual court personnel such as court advocates, interpreters, or investigators**
- **Victim access to courts**
- **Central repository/databases that support victim safety and confidentiality, VPO**
- **Outreach & education to include judicial and commissioner training**
- **Training for judges, court commissioners, and appropriate staff**

### ***Program Purpose Areas***

- Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence, including the use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (U) and (T) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a));
- Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in

courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;

- Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by State funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence; OMB Number: 1122-0020 Expiration Date: 8/31/2015
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses to male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code.

Maryland's Strategic Planning Team confirmed their continued support of court entities and/or court programs that are in-line with Maryland's statewide strategy and that enhance the role of the judiciary and other court personnel in managing offender behavior and securing victim safety. The team identified the need for specialized staff, which is culturally sensitive, to aid victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to seek and receive access to the courts. To this end, outreach & education should include, but not be limited to, judicial and commissioner training regarding court processes and protocols to increase victim safety especially when making bail decisions, ensure accountability, and enable court commissioners to sign off on the U Visa. Once more, the team expressed the need for comprehensive training for judicial and court personnel.

Best Practices and successful projects identified were centralized legal representation and the ability to have victims represented in both civil and criminal cases, both of which makes the court aware of victims' issues and leads to better outcomes. The above-stated best practices and priorities led to the following goals and objectives identified within the courts category:

- Continue and increase representation for victims in criminal and civil cases in every jurisdiction in Maryland (Years 1-3)
- Continue and increase victim-centered training for judicial and court personnel (Year 1-3)

## **DISCRETIONARY**

### ***Priorities***

- **Capacity building for dedicated Domestic Violence (DV) & Sexual Assault (SA) victim services**
- **Specialized Training in DV, SA, Stalking, and Dating Violence to include compliance with the new laws regarding victims**
- **Enhancement of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) Statewide and expanding the use of the LAP by Additional Agencies/Organizations to promote an effective coordinated community response**
- **Enhancement and maintenance of existing Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams (DVFRTs) and the establishment of DVFRTs in all remaining jurisdictions (as needed)**
- **Provide Trauma Informed Response (including services, policies and training)**
- **Maintain core services**
- **Specialized training in DV & SA initiatives**
- **Coordinated community response in the form of local coordinating councils or development of SART Teams and direct services**



### ***Program Purpose Areas***

- Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence, including the use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (U) and (T) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a));
- Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
- developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
- maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families; and
- Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by State funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence; OMB Number: 1122-0020 Expiration Date: 8/31/2015
- Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault;
- Developing and promoting state, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.
- Developing, enlarging or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional or detention settings.
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses to male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code.
- Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a state to be used for this purpose.

State and local coordinating councils were well represented on the Planning Team, which included representatives from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, and the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, as well as individuals from local coordinating councils, SARTS and Rape Crisis Centers. Priorities established by this group included projects that aim to build capacity, demonstrate strong partnerships, and develop and/or enhance education, training, and advocacy initiatives that support efforts to combat domestic violence and sexual assault within the State of Maryland.

Capacity building includes assisting with outreach to underserved populations, marginalized communities and the development and/or enhancement of education, training, and advocacy initiatives within non-profit non-governmental victim service organizations, local government entities, and faith-based organizations. The State

Planning Team also identified the importance of new agencies utilizing the Lethality Assessment Program (including the use of specialized LAP protocols), such as health care providers, faith-based providers, departments of social services, and Parole and Probation and expanding the county-based, multi-disciplinary LAP model to additional counties. In addition, they recommended expanded use of best practices, such as follow-up calls and visits and, when possible, expanding the utilization of the LAP for pre-trial release, bond, sentencing, and improving the prosecution of strangulation and stalking.

The Team identified the importance of supporting programs that maintain core services such as hotline, crisis response, shelter, transportation, and maintaining qualified personnel. Also, the team mentioned the DVFRT's importance of statewide coordination that ensures continued effective operation and includes monitoring, providing technical assistance, expanding team participation and case review activities, obtaining recommendations from all operating teams, producing an annual statewide report with findings and recommendations, promoting and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations, and evaluating the team operations.

Best Practices and successful projects identified included Domestic Violence Response Toolkits for medical facilities' Lethality Assessment, coordinated councils, and SART Teams. The above-state best practices and priorities led to the following goals and objectives identified within the law enforcement category:

- Continue expansion of Coordinating Councils per jurisdiction to involve hospital-based domestic violence programs, inclusive of Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and other coalitions throughout the state (Year 1-3)
- Local SART teams established in every jurisdiction to include the required minimum representation of: law enforcement, prosecution, community-based advocacy, and forensics (Year 1-3)
- Enhance Training on the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) to law enforcement, health care providers, Department of Human Resources, Department of Juvenile Services, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Years 1-2)
- Continue and/or enhance training programs including Lethality Assessment and use of LAP protocols to non-profit non-governmental victim service organizations, local government entities, faith-based organizations, and newly identified agencies. (Years 1-3)
- Continue to expand services to limited English proficient victims, and other underserved populations (Year 1-3)
- Continue victim-centered training and advocacy initiatives in coordination with other stakeholders. (Years 2-3)
- Continue support to local DV Coordinating Council (Years 1-3)

Under VAWA 2014, Maryland plans to meet the required sexual assault set-aside includes funding positions and programs throughout the state. To ensure the mandated minimum percentage is achieved GOCCP will incorporate performance measures to capture this information. GOCCP specifically addressed the set-aside requirements in the NOFA, the TA Session, and will as part of the application review. As shown on Attachment E, sub-recipients will be required quarterly to indicate the number of victims served whose victimization involved sexual assault. The information provided by sub-recipients will serve as a baseline for GOCCP in monitoring the awarded projects.

Additionally, Maryland has ensured the implementation of the STOP VAWA Program's mandate for the uniform collection of specific victims' data by sub-grantees. In addition to collecting sexual assault data, Attachment E also collects information regarding the types of demographic data. Attachment E is currently posted on our agency's website and was distributed to all STOP VAWA sub-grantees via email. This data is compiled and submitted quarterly for review by GOCCP monitors and the STOP VAWA Program Manager.

STOP VAWA sub-recipients' award packets also include a special condition that all sub-grantees are required to report and submit the “*Sub grantee Annual Performance Report*” (SAPR) at the end of each calendar year. Subsequently, Maryland will report on the effectiveness of activities carried out with S\*T\*O\* P funds, including the breakdown of services provided to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims, the number of persons served and number of persons seeking services who could not be served.

### ***C. Grant-making Strategy***

Utilizing the priorities and best practices as defined within the VAWA Strategic Planning process and outlined in this report, GOCCP posted the FY 2014 STOP Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on its website in early March 2014. Applications are due April 22, 2014.

The STOP VAWA application process is competitive. GOCCP conducts a three-tier review, to include internal staff and external independent reviewers, of each application submitted in accordance with the NOFA. The grant review committees will commence a self-paced review in early May and will finalize the grant review at a group meeting in late May, providing recommendations for funding to GOCCP. This process provides a springboard to the internal review process, which includes a comprehensive review of each applicant and jurisdiction (see criteria below). The final review and approval comes from GOCCP’s Division Chief, Deputy Director, and Executive Director.

GOCCP will assess each jurisdictional need based on the following criteria:

- Documentation of need
- Number of violent incidents
- Current availability of existing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking program services
- Geographic size and location
- Ability to recognize and address the needs of underserved populations
- Demonstrated capacity and effectiveness of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking program services

Each panel member receives an evaluation tool to facilitate the application review process. The application ratings consist of the following criteria:

- Project Description/Goals and Objectives
- Organization Description
- Problem Statement/Needs Justification
- Qualifications
- Collaborations and MOU’S
- Letter of Certification (as applicable (see Appendix F))
- Evaluation Plan
- Budget
- Documented Consultation Requirement (as applicable)
- Sustainability Plan

GOCCP has experienced success with its review process, providing a fair and equitable evaluation of each application. Utilizing the most current statistical information, each organization’s project is evaluated based on the following:

- Past performance and demonstrated effectiveness of existing DV/SA projects
- Development of internal evaluation strategy
- Ability to collect and maintain data that measures the project's effectiveness before and after implementation of grant activity
- Demonstration of a sustainability plan
- Demonstration of partnerships
- Ability to leverage funding within and/or outside of own jurisdiction
- Demonstration of jurisdictional planning

Applicants outline performance measures for each objective defined within the proposal that will be used through the project period. These measures will gauge how and when accomplishments are made. Applicants are requested to specifically relate each output to the description of program activity and any job descriptions that may apply. The following information is outlined in the grant application and requested from each applicant to be identified within the program proposal.

- Previous Outcomes/Objectives
- Projected Outcomes/Objectives
- Performance Measures
- How Measured/Outputs

As in previous years, the grant review panel will consist of a multidisciplinary group of individuals who represent the categories within the STOP Program. The selection process is deliberate in that there is specific attention given to individuals who have experience with violence against women issues and successfully reviewing grant programs. Historically, the composition of the group is a wide representation of race, ethnicity, and geographical diversity. The panel is comprised of equal representation of experience in the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, rape/sexual assault and stalking and experience with underserved populations.

Grant reviewers are provided with the priorities for funding as included within the FY 2014 NOFA and as reflected within this Implementation Plan as well as a list of all applications and funding requests by category and jurisdiction. The grant review committee is strongly encouraged to recommend funding of proposals that are consistent with Maryland's priorities as outlined in the NOFA. Instructions are included within the review packets, paying specific attention to underserved populations, providing comprehensive culturally specific services (beyond bilingual advocacy), and accomplishing the goal of creating parity between domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking programs, and supporting rape crisis centers and shelters.

Since funding has remained constant over the last several years, GOCCP instituted a policy for STOP VAWA applications in FY 2011 and continued it in FY 2014. GOCCP placed funding limitations on "continuation" projects whereas current STOP VAWA sub-recipients who applied to continue a project currently funded through STOP VAWA, could not apply for more than the amount awarded during the previous year. This change allowed GOCCP to continue supporting vital programs while allowing for the addition of some new, innovative programs. Consequently, this also helps ease the often-challenging review process.

GOCCP intends to fund awardees in July, followed by award packets. The grant cycle runs October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015. GOCCP awards single-year based awards.

Through GOCCP's TA webinar the sub-recipients are encouraged to consult with victim service providers and other state agencies when developing an application to ensure that the proposed activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims.

#### ***D. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims***

The STOP VAWA Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for federal fiscal year 2014 states that priority would be given to proposals that address the needs of culturally specific/underserved populations within the victim services category. Additionally, the need to direct funding to culturally specific/underserved populations is emphasized before and during the independent grant review process to ensure the appropriate recommendations for funding. Reviewers in the victim services category will be given specific directions regarding the ten percent allocation to be distributed to linguistically and culturally specific community-based organizations. These agencies are identified in Attachment B with an asterisk. Specific to federal guidelines, the definition of underserved populations as described in the NOFA was as follows:

***"Populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate."***

Per OVW, the definition of linguistically and culturally specific is as follows:

***"The term 'linguistically and culturally specific services' means community-based services that offer full linguistic access and culturally specific services and resources, including outreach, collaboration, and support mechanisms primarily directed toward underserved communities."***

Additionally, all reviewers will be advised of the 20% set aside of the total amount allocated to the state for projects across two or more of the allocation categories (excluding discretionary) that meaningfully address sexual assault.

#### **Grant Monitoring**

A fundamental responsibility of the VAWA State Administrator is to validate the progress of projects funded through the STOP program. This process includes monitoring the submission of quarterly narrative reports to include the federal statistical collection of demographic data of clients served through the STOP Program, as well as fiscal reports. Through site visits, desk review, data reporting, and the review of quarterly reports, the VAWA State Administrator is charged with monitoring how well projects are meeting and/or exceeding benchmarks as outlined in the grantees stated goals and objectives.

As stated previously, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention monitors sub-recipients by county/jurisdiction. To this end, a team of grant specialists will provide monitoring support for all grants, including STOP, by region throughout the state. This team will remain in regular communication with GOCCP's VAWA Program Manager, who also serves as OVW's single point of contact. This coordination among the program manager and grant monitors has enhanced GOCCP's monitoring capabilities.

## **V. Conclusion**

The Planning Team did not identify any significant barriers that would affect implementation. However, as previously stated, the following are anticipated obstacles to be handled moving forward:

- Disparity in Funding Allocations vs. Funding Requests
- Lack of transitional housing programs and affordable housing
- Lack of public transportation
- Lack of qualified staff and the inability to retain

Maryland has made significant strides in recent years to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, and dating violence. GOCCP is pleased to present this comprehensive State Implementation Plan, which defines Maryland's direction for combating intimate partner violence against women in Maryland over the next three years. Through the deliberate review of best practices, needs evaluation, etc., the overall priorities focused on specialized staffing and units, training, and improving all victim services, GOCCP is confident that this multi-faceted approach has addressed the statewide needs and therefore will work towards preventing future victims.

## Attachment A: GOCCP Administration: Regional Monitoring

### Regional Program Monitors



#### Eastern Region

Baltimore City	William Harper	410-821-2829	WHarper@goccp.state.md.us
Baltimore County	Latonya Eaddy	410-821-2850	LEaddy@goccp.state.md.us
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Caroline	Linda Brookes	410-821-2870	LBrookes@goccp.state.md.us
Cecil	Linda Brookes	410-821-2870	LBrookes@goccp.state.md.us
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Wicomico	Sharron Melvin	410-821-2831	SMelvin@goccp.state.md.us
Worcester	Sharron Melvin	410-821-2831	SMelvin@goccp.state.md.us
Eastern Region			
Chief:	Justice Schisler	410-821-2844	JSchisler@goccp.state.md.us

#### Western Region

Allegany	Lashonde Beasley	410-821-2833	LBeasley@goccp.state.md.us
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Frederick	Anissa Walker	410-821-2834	AWalker@goccp.state.md.us
Garrett	Lashonde Beasley	410-821-2833	LBeasley@goccp.state.md.us
Howard	Kimberly Herndon	410-821-2867	KHerndon@goccp.state.md.us
Montgomery	Angee Carpintieri	410-821-2847	ACarpintieri@goccp.state.md.us
Prince George's	Zina Weems	410-821-2838	ZWeems@goccp.state.md.us
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Western Region			
Chief:	Laurie Rajala	410-821-2841	LRajala@goccp.state.md.us

## Attachment B: GOCCP Strategic Planning Team\*

Name	Title	Agency	Phone
Nicole Daskalakis	Forensic Interviewer	Baltimore Child Abuse Center	410.396.6147
Karen Keyser	Family Violence Unit	Baltimore County Department of Social Services	410.853.3031
Amy Ocampo	Sr. Asst. State's Attorney	Carroll County State's Attorney's Office	410.386.2671
Victoria Lenes	Staff Attorney	Catholic Charities Baltimore	443.825.3440
Annette Gilbert-Jackson	Executive Director	Center for Abused Persons	301.645.8994
Constance Sgarlata	Project Director	Family & Children Services of Central Maryland	410. 876.1233
Keyandra Brisco	Director, Trauma Services	Family & Children Services of Central Maryland	410.281.1334
Doug Murphy	Executive Director	Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, Inc.	410. 285.4357
Sarah Smith	Counselor & AIP Coordinator	Heartly House	301.662.8800
Colleen Moore	Project Director	GBMC SAFE Program	443.849.3323
Lisa Nitsch	Director Clinical Services	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	410.554.8453
Hanna Bray	Coordinator	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	410.554.8485
Angelique Green Manning	Program Manager Abuse Intervention Services	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	410.261.3038
Amy Hott	Attorney	Howard County State's Attorney's Office	410. 313.2108
Denise McCain	Director of Compliance	Legal Aid Bureau	410.951.7688
Michelle Hughes	Executive Director	Life Crisis Center	
Corae Young	Assistant Director	Life Styles	301.609.9900
Linda King	Program Supervisor	Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault	301.328.7023
Michaele Cohen	Executive Director	Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence	301.429.3601
Erin Boguski	Director, Training Servies	Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence	301. 429.3601
Patrick Linnehan	Director of Grants	Maryland State Police	410.653.7760



<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Capt. Holly Barrett	DV Coordinator	Maryland State Police	410.653.3101
Heather Brantner	SART Coordinator	Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice	443.984.2372
Tania Araya	Coordinator, Family Violence Response Center	Mercy Medical Center	410.332.9470
Debra Holbrook	Manager	Mercy Medical Center	410. 332.9494
Jeanne Yeager	Project Director	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	410. 479.1149
Daryl Leach	Director, Family Justice Center	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	240.773.0406
Veronica Jaua	Grants Manger	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	240.777.7072
Debbie Feinstein	Project Director	Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office	240. 777.7300
Audrey Bergin, MA	Program Coordinator	Northwest Hospital Center	410.496.7555
Brian Mongelli	Officer	Ocean City Police Department	
Jackie Rhone	Associate Director	Prince George's County Dept. of Family Services	301.265.8423
Karalyn Mulligan	Project Director	Prince George's General Hospital (Dimensions Healthcare System)	301.618.3060
Mary Wubben	Division Coordinator	Sexual Assault Legal Institute	301.565.2277
Beth Huber	Manager	Sinai Hospital	410.601.2174
Sara Smoley	Clinical Director	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. (SARC)	410.836.8431
Lisa Caiazzo-Nutter	Executive Director	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc.	410.836.8431
Roxann Rogers	Clinical Supervisor	Shock Trauma	410.328.9833
Laura Joyce	Executive Director	Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy	410.723.6622
Morgan Weibel	Supervising Attorney	Tahirih Justice Center	410.999.1230
Gail Reid	Project Director	TurnAround, Inc.	410.377.8111
Nadja S.P. Cabello, L.C.S.W.-C.	Director, Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP)	Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (Mont County)	240.777.1355
Kathleen O'Brien	Executive Director	Walden Sierra	301. 997.1300
Laure Ruth	Executive Director	Women's Law Center of Maryland	410.321.8761

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Marty Pusey	Project Director	Worcester County Health Department	410. 632.0056
Molly D. Knipe, MSS, MLSP	Executive Director	YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	410.626.7800 Ext. 101

***\* Highlighted rows signify non-profit, non-governmental victim service providers.***

### Attachment C: FY 2014 STOP Sub-Recipients

Grant Award Number	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Award Amount
VAWA-2014-0001	Prince George's County Office Of The Sheriff	Special Victims' Advocate	\$35,000.00
VAWA-2014-0002	Immigration and LEP Legal Assistance	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. (SARC)	\$10,000.00
VAWA-2014-0003	Trauma-Informed Counseling	The Renaissance Center	\$6,000.00
VAWA-2014-0004	PREA Coordination	Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services	\$123,828.00
VAWA-2014-0005	Multidisciplinary Response to Sexual Assault	Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc.	\$25,986.00
VAWA-2014-0006	CARE to Stop Violence	University of Maryland - University Health Center	\$10,000.00
VAWA-2014-0007	Forensic Nurse Examiners Training	Frederick Memorial Healthcare System	\$20,126.00
VAWA-2014-0008	Advocacy Services	HopeWorks of Howard County, Inc.	\$9,413.00
VAWA-2014-0009	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services	Asian Pacific Islander-Domestic Violence Resource Project	\$10,000.00
VAWA-2014-1002	Perinatal Advocacy	Mercy Medical Center	\$9,000.00
VAWA-2014-1005	Domestic Violence Services	Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC)	\$10,000.00
VAWA-2014-1019	Protective Order Enforcement	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	\$42,500.00
VAWA-2014-1101	Court Advocate	Baltimore County Department of Social Services	\$22,727.00
VAWA-2014-1201	Victim Services	LifeStyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc.	\$6,000.00
VAWA-2014-1203	Domestic Violence Services	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	\$124,634.00
VAWA-2014-1204	Bilingual Victim Advocate	For All Seasons, Inc.	\$20,000.00
VAWA-2014-1208	Bilingual Mental Health Services	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	\$52,144.00
VAWA-2014-1209	Case Manager	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	\$47,430.00
VAWA-2014-1212	Domestic Violence Prosecutor	Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office	\$60,000.00
VAWA-2014-1218	Family Violence Coordinating Council	Cecil County Department of Social Services	\$22,000.00
VAWA-2014-1219	Victim Services	Heartly House, Inc.	\$38,208.00
VAWA-2014-1222	Sexual Assault Services	Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (MCASA)	\$77,978.00

<b>Grant Award Number</b>	<b>Implementing Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
VAWA-2014-1224	Expanded Services	Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence	\$47,019.00
VAWA-2014-1223	Safety and Intervention Initiative	Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Resource Center (Dove Center)	\$19,735.00
VAWA-2014-1225	Emergency Victim Advocate	TurnAround, Inc. (Baltimore County)	\$42,378.00
VAWA-2014-1228	Lethality Assessment Response	Family & Children's Services of Central MD	\$14,000.00
VAWA-2014-1230	Capacity Building for Domestic Violence Services	Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence	\$42,120.00
VAWA-2014-1233	Sexual Assault Victims' Services	CASA Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused, Inc.	\$27,000.00
VAWA-2014-1234	Domestic Violence Victim Services	CASA Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused, Inc.	\$11,000.00
VAWA-2014-1235	Underserved Populations and Sexual Assault	Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (MCASA)	\$26,076.00
VAWA-2014-1242	Essential Victim Services	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. (SARC)	\$27,152.00
VAWA-2014-1250	Rural Victim	Garrett County Sheriff's Office	\$35,000.00
VAWA-2014-1253	Victim Advocate	Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy	\$22,305.00
VAWA-2014-1254	First Step	Westminster Police Department	\$30,000.00
VAWA-2014-1256	Felony and Special Victims' Domestic Violence Prosecutor	Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office	\$65,000.00
VAWA-2014-1257	Domestic Violence Unit	Carroll County Sheriff's Office	\$25,000.00
VAWA-2014-1259	Domestic Violence Prosecution/Victim Advocate	Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office	\$95,001.00
VAWA-2014-1262	Domestic Violence Court Advocacy	Family & Children's Services of Central MD	\$9,000.00
VAWA-2014-1263	Crisis Intervention	Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.	\$38,547.00
VAWA-2014-1268	Coordination of Domestic Violence Services	CASA Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused, Inc.	\$4,817.00
VAWA-2014-1277	Domestic Violence Prosecution	Carroll County State's Attorney's Office	\$55,453.00
VAWA-2014-1283	Lethality Assessment Coordinator	Hagerstown Police Department	\$20,000.00
VAWA-2014-1301	Domestic Violence Court Deputy	Calvert County Sheriff's Office	\$48,140.00

<b>Grant Award Number</b>	<b>Implementing Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
VAWA-2014-1305	Sexual Assault Forensics Examination (SAFE) Victims	Atlantic General Hospital Corporation	\$18,000.00
VAWA-2014-1307	Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and Treatment	Howard County General Hospital	\$9,518.00
VAWA-2014-1311	Lethality Assessment Response	Family & Children's Services of Central MD	\$24,000.00
VAWA-2014-1313	Lower Shore Legal Services	Life Crisis Center, Inc.	\$29,000.00
VAWA-2014-1314	Legal Assistant and Counseling Services	HopeWorks of Howard County, Inc.	\$45,000.00
VAWA-2014-1315	Domestic Violence Legal Assistant	Howard County State's Attorney's Office	\$45,000.00
VAWA-2014-1329	Trauma Therapy	TurnAround, Inc. (Baltimore County)	\$30,569.00
VAWA-2014-1337	Holistic Social Services	Tahirih Justice Center	\$9,720.00
VAWA-2014-1402	Lethality Assessment	Northwest Hospital Center	\$19,055.00
VAWA-2014-1412	Domestic Violence	Mercy Medical Center	\$18,000.00
VAWA-2014-1427	Legal Representation	Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.	\$25,527.00
VAWA-2014-1430	Protection Order Advocacy and Representation Project	Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.	\$38,880.00
VAWA-2014-1497	Domestic Violence Legal Services	Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.	\$20,000.00
VAWA-2014-1518	Immigration Legal Services	Associated Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Baltimore	\$35,000.00
VAWA-2014-1531	Legal Services for Immigrant Women Survivors	Tahirih Justice Center	\$19,440.00
VAWA-2014-1612	Enhanced Victim Intervention Services	Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, Inc.	\$24,300.00
VAWA-2014-1619	Family Violence Council	Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.	\$13,779.00
VAWA-2014-1620	Lethality Assessment	Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice (MOCJ)	\$60,000.00
VAWA-2014-1658	Protective Order Advocacy and Representation	Department of Family Administration	\$117,310.00
VAWA-2014-1714	Hospital and Healthcare Training	Center for a Healthy Maryland	\$5,000.00
VAWA-2014-1715	SAFE	Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC)	\$10,000.00
VAWA-2014-1718	Enhanced Domestic Violence Legal Representation	Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., Main Headquarters	\$45,000.00
VAWA-2014-1755	Bilingual Crisis Advocate	YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	\$14,850.00

<b>Grant Award Number</b>	<b>Implementing Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
VAWA-2014-1826	Domestic Violence/Witness Liaison	Baltimore Police Department	\$80,000.00
VAWA-2014-1848	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention	Worcester County Health Department	\$7,500.00
VAWA-2014-1857	Domestic Violence Counseling Services	Center for Abused Persons	\$9,850.00
VAWA-2014-1874	Danger Assessment Advocate	Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office	\$20,000.00
VAWA-2014-1911	Lethality Assessment Advocate	Montgomery County Dept. of Health & Human Services	\$30,000.00
VAWA-2014-2062	Group Intervention and Crisis Response Services	Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Inc.	\$17,685.00
VAWA-2014-2203	Forensic Nurse Examiner	Northwest Hospital Center	\$10,000.00

# Attachment D: The MD DV Health Care Screening and Response Initiative Executive Order



## *The State of Maryland* Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
01.01.2010.20

The Maryland Domestic Violence  
Health Care Screening and Response Initiative

- WHEREAS, Domestic violence is an epidemic of both deadly and expensive proportions;
- WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that nearly 5.3 million intimate partner victimizations occur each year. This violence results in nearly 2 million injuries and 1,300 deaths, and costs over \$8.3 billion each year;
- WHEREAS, The CDC reports that victims of intimate partner violence are at greater risk of negative health outcomes and that violence inhibits victims' abilities to manage chronic health conditions;
- WHEREAS, The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control reports that 44% of women murdered by their intimate partners visited an emergency department within two years prior to the homicide;
- WHEREAS, Research indicates that individuals with chronic health problems generate the largest financial burden on the health care system and account for a disproportionate amount of overall spending;
- WHEREAS, Health care providers who recognize intimate partner violence as an underlying cause of serious health problems can provide better and more cost-effective treatment to their patients;
- WHEREAS, Health care-based domestic violence screening programs are effective and affordable interventions;
- WHEREAS, Research from Pennsylvania, which has 83 health care-based domestic violence screening programs, illustrates that hospital-based domestic violence interventions may reduce the health care costs of these individuals by at least 20%;
- WHEREAS, Maryland law enforcement agencies reported 18,926 incidents of domestic violence to women, men, and children in 2008;

WHEREAS, Every Maryland resident should have easy access to crisis intervention and advocacy services providing appropriate intimate partner violence responses and resources;

WHEREAS, Maryland's four hospital-based domestic violence screening and response programs have screened and provided medical treatment, crisis counseling, safety planning, support, information, and resources to thousands of patients; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's Family Violence Council recommends in its report entitled *Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Programs* that Maryland should expand domestic violence screening and response programs to other health care providers across the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. Established. There is a Maryland Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and Response Initiative that will encourage the establishment of local Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and Response Programs. The initiative will be administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission and in consultation with associations, coalitions, and programs representing domestic violence service providers, victims, and Maryland hospitals and insurance providers.

B. For the purpose of this Executive Order:

(1) "Department" means the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

(2) "Domestic Violence Program" means a program having a primary purpose of providing comprehensive services to domestic violence victims, including, but not limited to 24-hour hotlines, emergency shelters, crisis and ongoing counseling programs, and victim information and advocacy programs.



(3) "Health Care Facility" means:

(a) A for-profit or nonprofit health center providing clinically related health services;

(b) A for-profit or nonprofit health clinic providing health services; and

(c) A for-profit or nonprofit hospital providing basic, general or comprehensive clinical health services.

(4) "Office" means the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

(5) "Screening" means the process of assessing patients seeking medical treatment who exhibit symptoms associated with intimate partner violence. Screening may also include general questions to all patients to determine their level of risk for intimate partner violence.

C. Purpose. Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and Response Programs in health care facilities will improve our health care system's response to patients who have been victims of domestic violence.

D. These programs will seek to:

(1) Improve the health care response to domestic violence by developing effective internal policies and procedures to identify, refer, and assist victims of domestic violence, including the development of a screening protocol;

(2) Increase the capacity of health care providers to serve domestic violence victims through skill-based training for their staff;

(3) Increase the ability of health care providers to screen for domestic violence and provide intervention, including medical treatment, crisis counseling, safety planning, support, information, and resources.

E. Responsibilities. The Office, in consultation with the Department, may:

(1) Encourage all health care facilities to adopt or review their written policies regarding the screening of, and response to, victims of domestic violence.

(2) Encourage the creation of Domestic Violence Screening and Response Programs that meet the needs of health care facilities and their patients.

(3) Solicit applications for funding from health care facilities interested in establishing Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and Response Programs.

(4) Select health care facilities with representation from various geographic areas.

(5) Convene an annual meeting with health care facilities, domestic violence coalitions and programs, Maryland hospitals, insurance providers, and other relevant parties, to learn about best practices, share information, discuss funding opportunities, and encourage facilities to initiate Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and Response Programs.

F. Program elements. In considering a health care facility's application to become a Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and Response Program, the Office may consider the facility's ability to:

(1) Conduct screening of patients for symptoms of domestic violence;

(2) Provide appropriate levels of medical response to victims of domestic violence;

(3) Collaborate and refer patients to local and regional domestic violence programs where they can obtain additional assistance and resources to ensure their safety and well-being;

(4) Provide educational and training programs which reflect a particular facility's demographics, policies, staffing patterns and resources;

(a) The training program shall include, but not be limited to, identifying characteristics of domestic violence; screening patients for domestic violence; appropriately documenting domestic violence in medical records; and offering patients referral services;

(5) Provide culturally competent educational materials to inform victims of domestic violence about services and assistance available at the facility or the local domestic violence program; and


(6) Develop formal assessment procedures, including but not limited to, coordinating and collecting data for the evaluation of the projects and their effectiveness.

G. Technical Assistance. The Office and Department shall facilitate technical assistance for health care facilities that indicate an interest in establishing Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and Response Programs.

H. Funding. The Office will ensure that the creation of Domestic Violence Health Care Screening and Response Programs is a priority in its distribution of existing State and federal monies and its application for new or additional monies available for domestic violence services.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 30<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2010.



  
Martin O'Malley  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
John McDonough  
Secretary of State

## **Appendix F:** Letter of Certification

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention  
300 East Joppa Road  
Suite 1105  
Baltimore, Maryland 21286

Re: (**Application #, Project Title**)

Dear Executive Director:

I submit this letter to certify that (ORGANIZATION NAME) is in compliance with the requirements of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program as amended by the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. Specifically, I hereby certify that as a:

1. State or local prosecution, law enforcement, and court entity we have consulted with State, or local victim service programs during the course of developing our grant application (s) in order to ensure that proposed services, activities and equipment acquisitions are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence;
2. State or local prosecution and law enforcement agency we do not require a victim of sexual assault to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement in order to be provided with a forensic medical exam, reimbursement for charges incurred on account of such an exam, or both; and
3. State or local prosecution and law enforcement agency, we are aware of, and in compliance with, the State of Maryland Policy on the Use of Polygraph Examinations in Sex Offense Investigations, which can be found on the GOCCP website: <http://www.goccp.maryland.gov/documents/Polygraph-Policy.pdf>

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with above certifications.

**Typed Name of Authorized Representative:**

**Title:**

**Agency Name:**

**Signature of Authorized Representative:**

**Date Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix G:** Confidentiality Notice Form

Date

Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention  
300 East Joppa Road  
Suite 1105  
Baltimore, Maryland 21286

Re: **(Application #, Project Title)**

Dear Executive Director:

Under section 40002(b)(2) of the Violence Against Women Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 13925(b)(2)), grantees and subgrantees with funding from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) are required to meet the following terms with regard to nondisclosure of confidential or private information and to document their compliance. By signature on this form, applicants for grants from OVW are acknowledging that they have notice that, if awarded funds, they will be required to comply with this provision, and will mandate that subgrantees, if any, comply with this provision, and will create and maintain documentation of compliance, such as policies and procedures for release of victim information, and will mandate that subgrantees, if any, will do so as well.

### **(A) In general**

In order to ensure the safety of adult, youth, and child victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and their families, grantees and subgrantees under this subchapter shall protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving services.

### **(B) Nondisclosure**

Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), grantees and subgrantees shall not—

(i) disclose, reveal, or release any personally identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied through grantees' and subgrantees' programs, regardless of whether the information has been encoded, encrypted, hashed, or otherwise protected; or

(ii) disclose, reveal, or release individual client information without the informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person (or in the case of an unemancipated minor, the minor and the parent or guardian or in the case of legal incapacity, a court-appointed guardian) about whom information is sought, whether for this program or any other Federal, State, tribal, or territorial grant program, except that consent for release may not be given by the abuser of the minor, incapacitated person, or the abuser of the other parent of the minor.

If a minor or a person with a legally appointed guardian is permitted by law to receive services without the parent's or guardian's consent, the minor or person with a guardian may release information without additional consent.

### **(C) Release**

If release of information described in subparagraph (B) is compelled by statutory or court mandate—

- (i) grantees and subgrantees shall make reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information; and
- (ii) grantees and subgrantees shall take steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of the information.

**(D) Information sharing**

- (i) Grantees and subgrantees may share—

- (I) nonpersonally identifying data in the aggregate regarding services to their clients and nonpersonally identifying demographic information in order to comply with Federal, State, tribal, or territorial reporting, evaluation, or data collection requirements;
- (II) court-generated information and law enforcement-generated information contained in secure, governmental registries for protection order enforcement purposes; and
- (III) law enforcement-generated and prosecution-generated information necessary for law enforcement and prosecution purposes.

- (ii) In no circumstances may—

- (I) an adult, youth, or child victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking be required to provide a consent to release his or her personally identifying information as a condition of eligibility for the services provided by the grantee or subgrantee;
- (II) any personally identifying information be shared in order to comply with Federal, tribal, or State reporting, evaluation, or data collection requirements, whether for this program or any other Federal, tribal, or State grant program.

**(E) Statutorily mandated reports of abuse or neglect**

Nothing in this section prohibits a grantee or subgrantee from reporting suspected abuse or neglect, as those terms are defined and specifically mandated by the State or tribe involved.

**(F) Oversight**

Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Attorney General from disclosing grant activities authorized in this Act to the chairman and ranking members of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate exercising Congressional oversight authority. All disclosures shall protect confidentiality and omit personally identifying information, including location information about individuals.

**(G) Confidentiality assessment and assurances**

Grantees and subgrantees must document their compliance with the confidentiality and privacy provisions required under this section.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby acknowledge that the applicant has received notice of that if awarded funding they will comply with the above statutory requirements. This acknowledgement shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which the Department of Justice will rely if it determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

**Typed Name of Authorized Representative:**

**Title:**

**Agency Name:**

**Signature of Authorized Representative:**

**Date Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix H:** Legal Assistance for Victims Certification Letter

Date

Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention  
300 East Joppa Road  
Suite 1105  
Baltimore, Maryland 21286

Re: (**Application #, Project Title**)

Dear Executive Director:

This letter serves to certify that [**Applicant**] is in compliance with the following statutory requirements:

- (1) Any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under the Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Program
  - (A) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking in the targeted population; or
  - (B) (i) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in subparagraph (A); and (ii) has completed, or will complete, training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide.
- (2) Any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a state, local, territorial, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials.
- (3) Any person or organization providing legal assistance through a program funded under this Program has informed and will continue to inform state, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate State and local law enforcement officials of their work.
- (4) The grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

Sincerely,

**Typed Name of Authorized Representative:**

**Title:**

**Agency Name:**

**Signature of Authorized Representative:**

**Date Signed** \_\_\_\_\_